

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-28 remain pending. In this Reply, Applicant has amended claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 20, 22, 24-26, and 28.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 11-13, 15-19, 21, 23, and 27 are allowed. Applicant further acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 4-10, 14, 20, 22, 24-26, and 28 would be allowable if amended to overcome the claim objections set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In view of the amendments presented above, Applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 4-10, 14, 20, 22, 24-26, and 28 based on the antecedent basis issues specified on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In this Reply, Applicant has amended the claims to address the antecedent basis issues raised by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant has filed an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently with this Reply to ensure that the references cited and considered in the parent application (U.S. Application No. 10/171,951) are of record in this divisional application. For the

Examiner's convenience, a copy of the Form PTO-1449 from the concurrently-filed Information Disclosure Statement is attached hereto.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Form PTO-1449